

Neil W. Anderson, MD Bijal A. Parikh, MD, PhD COVID-19 Testing Team

Outstanding Achievements in Quality Improvement

Neil W. Anderson, MD, Assistant Professor of Pathology & Immunology and Bijal A. Parikh, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pathology & Immunology, both in the Division of Laboratory and Genomic Medicine, and their COVID-19 Testing Team, are honored for their outstanding achievements in quality improvement.



Working as a team, Drs. Anderson and Parikh developed SARS-CoV-2 molecular testing at BJH hospital. This herculean task was done with lightning speed and allowed health professionals in our community to detect infected patients, rapidly quarantine them to prevent further spread of the virus and consider patients for available therapeutic options.



Prior to the first case of COVID-19 being diagnosed in Missouri, the Molecular Infectious Disease laboratory (MID) started the task of developing the capacity to perform >1000 SARS-CoV-2 tests per day! Drs. Anderson and Parikh's team worked non-stop and within two weeks of the FDA allowing laboratories to develop molecular assays for this virus, the team submitted their request for emergency use authorization (EUA) and began testing. Within one week, the MID laboratory was able to perform ~200 tests/day and continued to increase by ~200/day each week. By April 30th, the lab reached the milestone of being able to perform ~1000 tests/day. Early on, the team anticipated supply chain shortages and began comparing the interchangeability of instrumentation to allow for duplication in a common workflow. They developed processes that would allow the BJH laboratory to remain functional even when faced with changes in testing capacity and reagents. As of September 20, 2020, >120,000 SARS-CoV-2 PCR test have been performed at BJH laboratories!

The St. Louis metropolitan area owes a debt of gratitude to this team for developing high volume, reliable COVID-19 testing. It is clear they demonstrate the leadership and innovation that this award is meant to celebrate.